

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No: 500  
Effective Date: 04/01/2010  
Supersedes: 03/01/1997  
Review Date: 06/01/2012

SUBJECT: BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROTOCOLS

PURPOSE

The Basic Life Support (BLS) protocols provide uniform standards for BLS and ALS personnel to render prehospital medical care when responding to a medical incident.

AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220 and 1798 (a); California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Social Security, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, Sections 100015 and 100020; Chapter 2, Sections 100063 and 100079.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): An Emergency Medical Technician of any level, certified in the State of California.
- B. First Responder: EMTs; Paramedics; Flight Nurses and Critical Care Nurses trained in EMS; and Public Safety personnel trained in first aid and CPR, such as firefighters, peace officers, and lifeguards.
- C. Paramedic: An EMT-P accredited to practice in San Luis Obispo County.

POLICY

- A. All BLS and ALS personnel working in San Luis Obispo County, including Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and First Responders, shall follow the BLS treatment protocols. BLS personnel shall utilize the protocols immediately upon receiving protocol training, while on-duty and rendering medical care.
- B. BLS and ALS personnel shall utilize principles and skills as indicated in these protocols.
- C. Deviations from these BLS protocols shall be made only by on-duty Paramedics in conformance with San Luis Obispo County Advanced Life Support Treatment Protocols, or with Base Hospital contact.
- D. BLS and ALS personnel shall use the protocol that is most closely associated with the patient's condition. Some situations may indicate the use of more than one protocol. BLS personnel shall use their best judgment and consultation with Paramedics to determine which protocol to use.